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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT N [REDACTED]

CD NO.

25X1A

DATE DISTR. 19 January 51

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

SUBJECT Analysis of Czechoslovak Sodium Hydroxide Samples NO. OF PAGES 2

PLACE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

25X1A

NO. OF ENCL'S.
(LISTED BELOW)

DATE ACQUIRED [REDACTED]

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

DATE OF INF [REDACTED]

25X1X

of Czechoslovakian sodium hydroxide which were obtained from Chemapol, Ltd., by a U. S. importing firm.

1. A description of the samples tested is as follows:

- a. One round bottle of Czechoslovakian sodium hydroxide (Sample A) labeled "Natrium Hydricum puriss."
- b. One square bottle of Czechoslovakian sodium hydroxide (Sample B) labeled "Natrium Hydricum purum."

2. The following chemical analyses were obtained from a competent U. S. Federal laboratory:

a. Sample A is reported to consist of the following:

Sodium hydroxide	96.8% (A.C.S. reagent limits not less than 97%)
Sodium carbonate	1.1% (A.C.S. maximum: 2.5%)
Chloride	less than 0.010%
Nitrogen compounds (as N)	less than 0.001%
PO_4^{3-}	less than 0.001%
SO_4^{2-}	less than 0.005%
Ammonium hydroxide ppt.	less than 0.020%
Heavy metals (as Ag)	less than 0.003%
Iron (as Fe)	less than 0.002%

b. Sample B is reported to consist of the following:

Sodium hydroxide	95.5% (U.S.P.XIII minimum: 95%)
Sodium carbonate	1.0% (U.S.P.XIII maximum: 3%)
Heavy metals	less than 0.003%
Potassium	absent

3. The following conclusions are reported concerning Samples A and B.

- a. Sample A exhibits an NaOH content 0.2 per cent less than the American Chemical Society (A.C.S.) minimum. In all other respects Sample A meets A.C.S. standards for reagent grade sodium hydroxide.
- b. Sample B meets United States Pharmacopoeia (U.S.P.XIII) requirements for sodium hydroxide.

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STATE	NAVY	NSRB	DISTRIBUTION						
ARMY	X AIR	X FBI							

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C. The packaging used in marketing these samples is inferior to American packaging for similar products.

- (1) Both bottles were closed with screw caps similar to those used in the USA, but neither cap was sealed with a tight band of plastic around the outside of the cap and top of the bottle as is usual in the USA.
- (2) The screw cap of the bottle containing Sample A was lined with cork covered by a thin sheet of paper. While this kind of closure is inferior to the usual USA closure, the contents of the bottle appear, so far, to have escaped appreciable contamination.
- (3) The screw cap of the bottle containing Sample B was lined with only a porous film of cork. This inferior closure has caused contamination of the top 10 to 15 per cent of the bottle's contents by carbon dioxide and water. (Analysis was made only of the uncontaminated contents.)

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